sures to promote co-operative farming wherever response from land-holders is good.

(d) As on 30th June, 1989 the total number of co-operative farming societies was 7280.

(e) According to information available about 13 per cent of these Societies are in profit.

Supply of rice and wheat at subsidised cost

1579. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for supplying rice and wheat at subsidised rate through public distribution system; and

(b) whether Government propose to supply foodgrains at subsidised rates only to those who are below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Public Distribution System is universal in nature, and does not distinguish the beneficiaries on the basis of income etc. However, under a Scheme for areas covered by Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), specially subsidised foodgrains are distributed to the population living therein.

(b) There is no such proposal at the present.

Combating economic offences by modifying Essential Commodities Acts

1580. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to take strong measures by suitably modifying the Essential Commodities Acts, incorporating heavy punishments to hoarders, black marketeers, profiteers and those who produce and sell sub-standard goods, so as to combat effectively the economic offences and anti-social activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): The Essential Commodities Act contains comprehensive provisions for checking and punishing such malpractices. They were made more stringent with the enactment of Essential Commodities (Special Provision) Act, 1981 with a view to providing more effective deterrents against hoarding and black-marketing. There is no proposal to amend the Act.

केन्द्रीय खाद्य प्रौद्योगिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान का स्थानान्तरित किया जाना

1581. **श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार केन्द्रीय खाद्य प्रौद्योगिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान को नागपुर से भोपाल और जबलपुर में स्थानान्तरित किये जाने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

मध्य प्रदेश में सतना में सीमेंट के कारखाने की स्थापना किया जाना

1582. **श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में सतना में सीमेन्ट के कारखाने की स्थापना किये जाने के बारे में कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?